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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1982

82-7,8

MEETING NOTICE

Following last month's Chapter bus tour to Ohio, our meeting schedule returns to normal on Thursday, November 11. Dr. Peter Reid, editor of the always witty Windsor Chapter *Squirrel County Gazette*, will be speaking to us concerning his recent excavation of the Dick site near Point Pelee. His talk entitled *The Dick Site and The Point Pelee Focus of Essex County* will be presented at 8:00 P.M. at the Museum of Indian Archaeology.

Bring a friend!

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Since our last newsletter two executive meetings have been held; one on September 28 and another on October 27. The major topic of discussion during the former was, naturally, the Ohio bus tour - but more of that later. Our executive also found time to discuss the Chapter's submission concerning the O.A.S. constitution, future meeting speakers, nominations for our 1983 executive and the sale of PAST buttons. The Museum of Indian Archaeology was thanked for selling the buttons and providing additional revenue for the Chapter.

Ted Rowcliffe announced during the October meeting that the Chapter would have a net profit of approximately \$400.00 from the bus tour! Details of our Chapter Christmas Party were discussed, as well as publication of the 1980 Symposium volume. Finally, it was suggested that the February meeting be a "member's night" - THOSE WISHING TO PRESENT PAPERS SHOULD CONTACT PAUL LENNOX.

SOCIAL REPORT

We have much to report, particularly concerning our successful bus tour; however, before discussing that and while we have your full attention, we should announce the:

LONDON CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 4, 8:00 P.M. at the Keron home in Thamesford. We will be treated to a 23 lb. turkey with all the trimmings, while members are asked to BYOB and mix, along with a pot luck contribution, such as a salad or dessert.

Note: The election of Chapter executive officers will be held at the Christmas party, which will constitute a regular meeting.

CHAPTER BUS TOUR - OHIO 1982

In addition to the fiscal success of this year's tour, the general consensus appears to be that a good time was had by all. Participant Stew Leslie has submitted a substantial written review of the tour to *Arch Notes*, which we all receive, and thus, KEWA will present only the witty 15,000 "word" (1000/picture) photo essay submitted by tour organizer Ted Rowcliffe.

OAS LONDON FALL 1982 BUS TRIP



Enroute
"No, Dammit!
I Said Ohio"



Columbus Museum
"Please, Don't Just
Look At My Legs!"



Columbus Museum
"So That's How
They Throw Them."



Newark Earthworks
"Eagle? I Don't
See No Eagle!"



Flint Ridge
"There Must Be Some Of
It Around Here . . ."



Flint Ridge
"Ron, Let's Take
This One Home"



Cambridge Motel
"After The Bath . . .
A La Paul Lennox!"



Marietta Earthwork
"It Sure Looks
Like A Tough One."



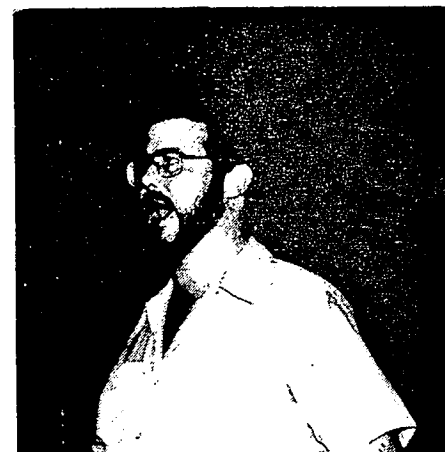
Marietta Earthwork
"313, 314, 315, This
Is Good For The Figure"



University Of Toledo
"Here In Toledo, We've
Rewritten Prehistory."



University Of Toledo
"It's Really Not As Bad
As It Looks . . ."



University Of Toledo
"And For Those Of You
Who Weren't At Mac . . ."



Indian Hills
"Please Paul, Remember
We're On Television."



Indian Hills
"Indian Hills? I Don't
See No Hills!"



Fort Meigs
"And This Is Where
We Won The War Of 1812."

Thanks Ted! Indeed, the Chapter should express their appreciation to both Ted and Paul, without whom the tour would never have become a reality. (Your Editor apologizes sincerely for not being available to guide as advertised - I even had my bags packed and my U.S. money - but the Elliott site rescue project left no alternative).

For those members who did not hear about it, the Elliott village rescue excavation was under way for 40 days between September 7 and October 16. Among the 214 volunteers who contributed 2142 hours to the project were O.A.S. members Charles Nixon, Ed Nixon, George Connoy, Ted Rowcliffe, Linda and Mike Gibbs, Wayne Hagerty, Dave Riddell, Ken Carter, Larry Messenger, Paul Lennox, Irmgard Jamnik, Ilse Kramer, Jack Redmond, Stew Leslie, Ken Oldridge, Gary Hebbard, Fred Moerschfelder, Rosemary Prevec, Norma Knowlton, Carl Murphy, Jane and Burns Proudfoot, Dr. Michael Spence, Dr. Dean Knight, and, oh yes, Bill Fitzgerald, Art Pegg and Neal Ferris (who suffered through 29 days and countless horrors). To summarize, two complete Glen Meyer villages and a portion of a third dating to c. 850-900 A.D. were recorded and are now gone—forever—some statistics of note: area mapped- 2,600 square meters ±
 post holes recorded- 11,500 ±
 features recorded- 448

The Ministry wishes to thank everyone who generously volunteered their time and effort.....and invite Chapter members to attend upcoming Elliott artifact washing socials. "Come out and meet new potsherds-bring a friend!" Each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M., starting on November 24, members will be able to savour the hospitality at 55 Centre Street.

After the foregoing commentary, it seems somehow appropriate (ironic?) that we offer you the following revised 1982 C.A.A. presentation concerning

the previous large scale Glen Meyer village rescue excavation:

THE CALVERT VILLAGE: GLEN MEYER COMMUNITY PATTERNS

WILLIAM A. FOX

In mid-April of 1981 Jim Keron, one of the Ministry's Archaeological Conservation Program members, was driving past the Calvert site in Dorchester just east of London. He noticed topsoil stripping in progress, met with Mr. Keith Davidson (the developer) to discuss the situation, and then contacted the M.C.C. office. We field checked the site and then negotiated access to the village so that a rescue excavation could be performed prior to subdivision construction. During the ensuing six weeks, 242 features and over 3000 post holes were mapped. Needless to say, this task was not accomplished by Ministry staff alone. It was only possible as a result of the over 1000 hours of labour provided by 56 volunteers, many of whom are London Chapter members.

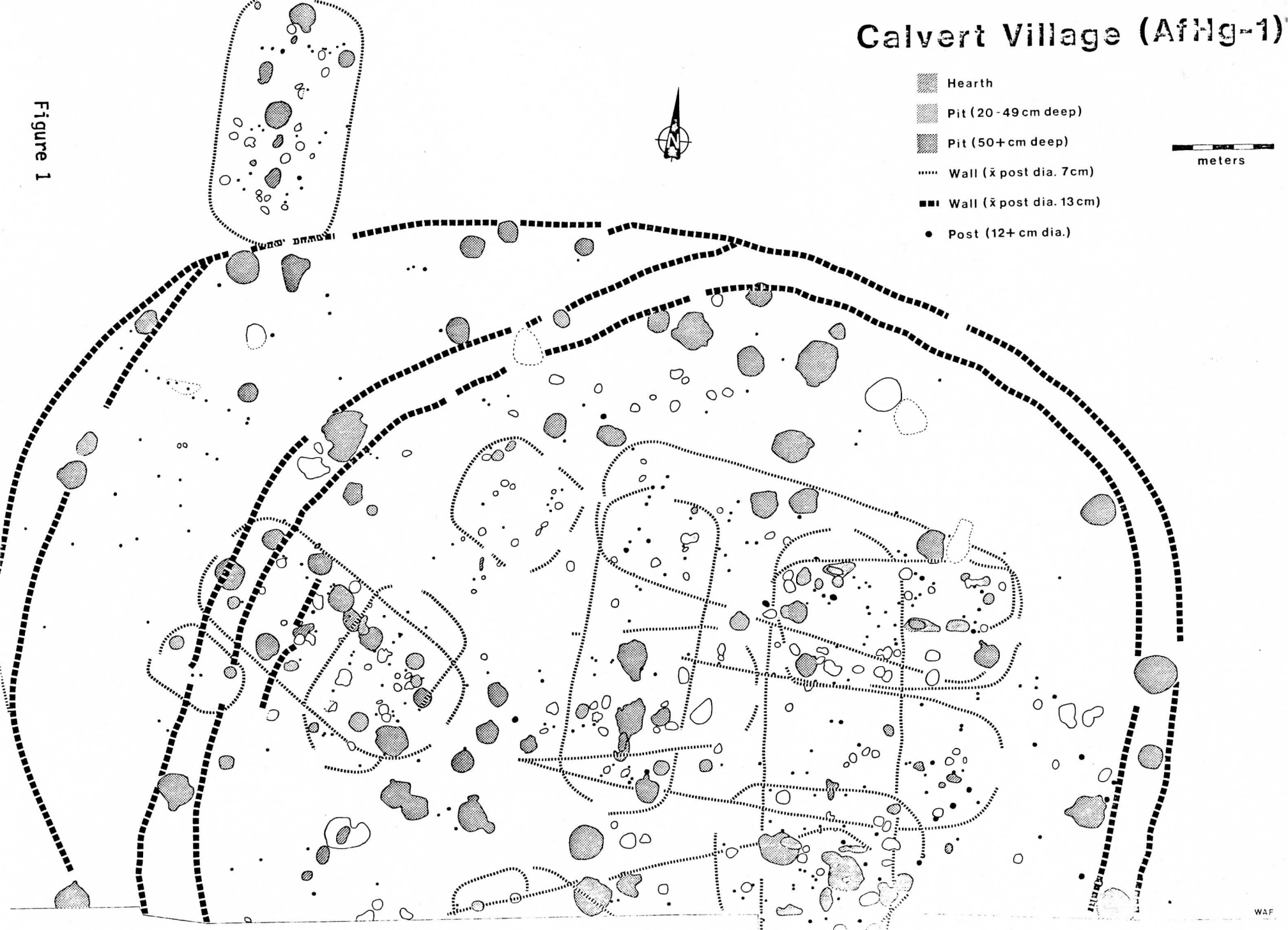
As the village was stripped of the remaining topsoil and mapped, it became evident that we were dealing with a typically complex Glen Meyer settlement form. Every time that you developed some confidence you understood the emerging community pattern, some new feature would be uncovered to create a renewed sense of confusion. By project end in 1981, only the rather complicated palisade structure looked straightforward, and even it appeared to intersect a longhouse which was situated for the most part outside the stockade!

A depressed housing market allowed us to return in 1982 to complete recording of the Calvert village. This necessitated the removal of a roughly 6 meter high pile of topsoil which ran north-south across the village. Mr. Keith Davidson not only allowed access to the site, but assisted in finding a good bulldozer operator. So, on May 11 we watched as the last remaining segment of village was opened to view. Over the next four weeks we were again assisted by many London Chapter members who provided over 300 hours of volunteer labour as we recorded several thousand more post holes and an additional 91 features.

Figure 1 illustrates the feature and post hole distribution ultimately recorded. As you can see, there was a certain amount of re-building. The rather perpendicular longhouse alignments cast some additional doubt on the importance of prevailing winds in house orientation - at least, any simplistic models thereof! Analysis of longhouse and stockade wall line and feature superimposition suggests that we have represented on the Calvert village at least three major periods of construction. These data are supported and complicated by information provided by 57 rim sherd cross-mends, primarily between pit features. While analysis continues, it appears that the latest or Phase 3 features contain the greatest variety of vessels in their fill-as would be expected.

Calvert Village (AfHg-1)

Figure 1



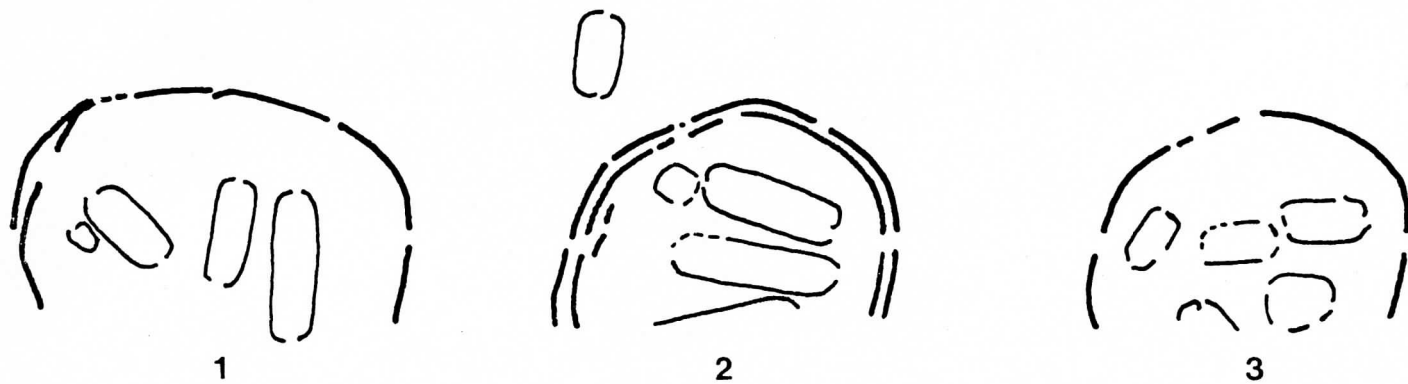


Figure 2: Calvert Village Construction Phases

A complex ceramic cross-mend pattern suggests that the in-filling of the large outdoor storage pits may have been a gradual process on average. In fact, the Calvert village was rather unique in our experience in the sense that the upper layers of some of the larger storage pits appeared to represent natural humic deposits and were virtually devoid of artifacts. This suggests that some pits were not nearly back-filled by the conclusion of the occupation - especially considering the additional depth represented by the removed plough zone.

Some intriguing evidence arguing for the initial corn storage function of these large, deep, generally flat bottomed ("Type 1") pits was contained in the bottom of pit Feature 126. Here we discovered a 4 cm. thick deposit of carbonized corn kernels, including no cob/cupule fragments. The kernels were found impressed or indented into one another, suggesting that they were soft and perhaps quite moist when they burnt. A discontinuous, up to 4 cm. thick layer of scorched subsoil lay over this deposit, which in turn was covered by the usual layered refuse infilling. It is conceivable, and this has been confirmed by a plant scientist at U.W.O., that what we have documented are the remains of a slow burn through spontaneous combustion. This would have been signalled eventually to the inhabitants by smoke rising from their storage pit! -- and the combustion may well have been rapid once they excavated to discover the smoke source, thus admitting oxygen. Needless to say, the reconstructed event is unique to our knowledge in the Ontario archaeological record.

In addition to the aforementioned, carbonized corn kernels were found widely distributed in features across the village. Thirty-eight out of the 56 (68%) of the sorted flotation heavy fractions from 1981 contained corn remains. Other carbonized floral material including wild plant seeds and nut shells has been identified; however, a full archaeobotanical analysis remains to be completed. Refuse filled pit features also produced a vast quantity of faunal remains which were recovered through $\frac{1}{4}$ " screening and the flotation of literally tons of fill soil.

Unlike some previously documented Glen Meyer villages, such as the DeWaele site, great quantities of deer bone were recovered, often as concentrated layers in the larger outdoor pits. Some remains were remarkably intact, suggesting that the hunting activities were particularly successful. The distribution of such deposits throughout the village and from top through

bottom layers of pit features indicates that deer were successfully harvested during the entire village occupation. Such a fact is not overly surprising as the Calvert site is situated on the western perimeter of the Dorchester Swamp-an excellent deer yarding locality during the winter and a noted deer hunting area in the nineteenth century.

The distribution across the village of those pit features containing large concentrations of deer bone is somewhat generalized; however, there is a tendency for such deposits to occur in and adjacent to the small Phase 3 dwellings. We believe that further analysis will strengthen this proposed association, suggesting that the final phase of occupation may represent a more specialized function for the site - a deer hunting camp, perhaps only seasonally occupied.

Considering its 1 kilometer distance from the Thames River, the Calvert village has produced surprisingly little fish bone. Only 14 out of 101 float heavy fractions processed in 1981 contained fish remains, and of these, most bone related to small or medium sized specimens. Trout and sucker families predominate, both of which could have been obtained from the small Thames River tributary adjacent to the site. Fall spawning brook trout may well have been harvested, but a complete faunal analysis has yet to be accomplished. Despite the incomplete nature of our faunal and floral data, the evidence suggests a primarily fall through winter occupation for most or all phases of the Calvert village.

Artifacts were abundant throughout many of the pit refuse layers and numerous ceramics, including collapsed virtually complete vessels, were recovered. The wide variety of rim decorative motifs and techniques characteristic of Glen Meyer ceramics facilitated the aforementioned cross-mend study. Juvenile vessels were represented and pipe remains were rare. Chipped stone tools include triangular projectile points and knives, flake end scrapers, a spokeshave, "strike-a-lights" and a variety of less formalized utilized chert flake tools. Only two adzes were recovered; however, four pit features produced debris associated with adze production activities. Rough stone included hammer/anvil/manos and fragments of sandstone metates. As usual, the worked bone and antler industry was poorly developed. Perhaps the most unusual artifact find was a portion of a mudstone effigy amulet. Little can be said at present concerning the significance of lithic tool distributions across the village - particularly regarding specific activity areas; however, there is a tendency for adzes and adze production activities to be associated with early phase features.

Turning to the literature, a similar complexity of village house and stockade construction activity is documented for the ninth century early Glen Meyer Porteous village, the tenth century Van Besien village, the eleventh century DeWaele village, the twelfth century Cooper village and the thirteenth century Force village. All of the aforementioned Glen Meyer sites are situated along the Grand River or on the Norfolk sand plain to the east of Calvert. Recent excavations by Ron Williamson at the Glen Meyer Roeland village to the west on the Caradoc sand plain have exposed a similarly complex community pattern. Ron's excellent regional settlement study has further indicated that such sites constitute only one type within the Caradoc settlement system.

Identical construction complexity has been reported by Wright for the thirteenth century Bennett village; however, by the Middleport period in the succeeding century, the pattern of overlapping house locations becomes

exceedingly rare. Wright reported a single example at Nodwell which he interprets as a temporary shelter for the village construction crew. On later prehistoric, proto-historic and historic period villages overlapping houses continue to be rare, although you do see longhouse extension and palisade removal and re-alignment, apparently associated with village expansions - as at Draper.

Why this apparently abrupt change in Iroquoian village community pattern at c. 1300 A.D.? The first and most obvious answer is that the early period villages were occupied for a longer term, on average, than later period communities. One could argue that the earlier houses were less stable structurally; however, the post hole dimensions and configuration of interior support posts is extremely similar to later forms. Some Calvert houses display an irregular triple support post cluster pattern, suggesting sequential post replacement and lending "support" for the proposition that these earlier houses were occupied longer than post-1300 A.D. structures. Nevertheless, one could argue as well that only less vigilant maintenance was evidenced, perhaps resulting from a more mobile seasonal settlement pattern than that characteristic of later Iroquoian populations.

A series of 5 radiocarbon dates spanning the period from 1050 to 1210 A.D. are obviously of little use in determining the longevity of the Calvert village, let alone its three construction phases. The site may have been occupied for thirty years or even sporadically for a longer period.

If early Late Woodland villages were, in fact, occupied for a longer term on average, it may have been due to the lesser strain placed on the resources of the immediate site environs by the lower population levels represented on these generally smaller villages. Firewood would not be so rapidly depleted and lesser areas may have been planted in corn; however, the Calvert data confirm that the Glen Meyer peoples were committed agriculturalists.

Calvert has added significant data to our growing understanding of Glen Meyer settlement and has resulted in more questions than answers. It has certainly reinforced both our perception of this period as a complex one, and our realization that with the generation of more data, explanation becomes increasingly difficult.